



## District 3 Newsletter

March 2014

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### Pancakes and Surfing



Councilmember Kavanaugh will hold the Third Annual Pancakes and Surfing event on May 17 at Rhodes Jr. High School from 9 am to Noon. The event will feature a Hawaiian shirt contest, free pancakes and a water safety clinic.

## A Message from Councilmember Kavanaugh

As we move into Spring 2014 we are seeing intense activity throughout District 3 and the city on projects that will benefit the entire community. Probably the most high profile project was the opening of the new Cub's Park and the completely renovated Riverview Park. Thousands of Mesa residents have already taken advantage of these new amenities.

We hope for a strong spring training baseball season as the entire Arizona economy benefits from baseball.

Light rail is moving along both in our district and in District 4. Construction completion is forecast for March/April 2015. Several months of system testing will occur after this to ensure safe operations of the expanded rail system.

The Fiesta District streetscape phase one project is set for completion in September this year. New landscaping and lighting are starting to be installed. Soon the outline of five new pocket parks will appear.

Significant new private investment has been occurring with the acquisition of multiple strip centers and vacant buildings in the Fiesta District. The new performing arts center under construction at Mesa Community College is transforming the view along US 60. Crime has gone down since the opening of the new Fiesta District Police substation. Kudos to the Mesa Police Department.

Upper Iowa University recently held a graduation for its first nursing class to receive baccalaureate degrees. Also, Albright College continues to attract new students to its campus facility in the Fiesta District.

This has been an interesting and exciting time for me to represent the most progressive and diverse district in our city. I look forward to continuing to serve you!

Sincerely,

Dennis Kavanaugh  
Councilmember, District 3

## Riverview Park is Now Open



## Project Zorro

District 3 is home to one of the most unique charities in the country, the Fencing For All Foundation. Watch the video below to learn more about how fencing helps at risk kids in Mesa.



Eye on Mesa: Project Zorro

## Councilmember Kavanaugh and the NLC

Councilmember Kavanaugh has been appointed to the National League of Cities' (NLC) International Council and Advisory Council for 2014, after serving the previous four years on the NLC's Board of Directors. The appointment was announced by NLC President Chris Coleman, the Mayor of St. Paul, Minnesota. Kavanaugh also serves on the NLC Audit Committee.

The International Council provides advice and direction to NLC's International Programs. The Council, and the wider international programs, both encourage and support educating



Riverview Park, the crown jewel of Mesa's parks system, is now open for families to enjoy. The new park, which completed construction in January, has already become a destination for people all over the Valley.

Riverview Park features include:

- 50-Foot high Rope Climbing Tower, largest in the world
- 60-Foot long Caterpillar mesh rope climbing structure
- Playground clusters for ages 2-5, 6-12 and above
- Shaded picnic areas with tables
- Reservable Ramadas
- Splash Pad
- Display Fountain
- Miles of walkways
- Kids Zip Line
- Urban Fishing Lake
- Much, much more!

If you have not had a chance to experience the park yet, I encourage you to do so. It truly is one of the crown jewels of Mesa!



## Opening Day at Cubs Park



municipal leaders about the impacts and opportunities of globalization. They also connect the knowledge and experiences of cities outside the U.S. with the hometown priorities of American cities and towns.

The Advisory Council is comprised of former NLC Board members who continue to hold their elected office. The Advisory Council includes Mayors and Councilmembers from across the country who have participated in the NLC for several years. Councilmember Kavanaugh first joined the NLC in 1997. The Advisory Council assists with advocacy efforts in support of NLC policy positions, assists in recruiting new member cities and on special projects as requested by the NLC President. Kavanaugh becomes the first elected official from Mesa to ever serve on the Advisory Council.

The NLC is the nation's largest and most prestigious organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, town and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

### Mesa City Council YouTube Channel

For the latest new on happenings around District 3 and throughout Mesa, be sure to check out the [Mesa City Council YouTube page](#). New stories are being posted all the time. And if you have an idea for a story, [let us know!](#)

### MesaNow.Org

To stay up to date with the latest news in the City of



Spring Training is in full swing and that means the gates have officially opened on the new Cubs Park. Following a ribbon cutting ceremony in mid-February, the Cubs played their first home game in the new stadium on February 27. Cubs Park received rave reviews from the 14,486 fans in attendance. That number set a new Cactus League record for largest crowd in Arizona Spring Training history.

The Cubs schedule runs through March 27 and tickets are available by visiting the [Cubs Spring Training website](#).



## MLK National Day of Service Recap

The MLK Day [Neighbors Helping Neighbors](#) (NHN) Project in District 3 served disabled Air Force Veteran Joe Macias and his daughter Juanita Macias who cares for him. In partnership with HandsOn Greater Phoenix, we coordinated two projects at Joe's home with over 80 volunteers participated in the painting project, donating 260 hours of their time.

In addition on MLK Day, HandsOn Greater Phoenix coordinated an additional project with AmeriCorps VISTA members canvassing and handing out flyers in neighborhoods to inform them of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program through Mesa United Way.

Pictures from the day can be seen [here](#).

Mesa, visit [MesaNow.org](http://MesaNow.org). The site features news releases, audio, video and photos from City events.

### Call For Submissions

If you have an item you would like to see in the next issue, whether it is a community event in District 3, a District 3 business you want to see highlighted, or anything else you can think of, submit it to us. Send your submissions to [Randy.Policar@mesaaz.gov](mailto:Randy.Policar@mesaaz.gov).

## City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are typically held the first and third Mondays of each month, beginning at 5:45pm. All agendas are available on-line at [www.mesaaz.gov](http://www.mesaaz.gov). Study sessions are held most Thursday mornings at 7:30 am in the lower level council chambers. Check the city's website for details.



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